

There may be persons, in judicial office or elsewhere, so short-sighted or un-American as to suppose that the constitutional right of free speech in this country may in some way be abridged by servants of the people, but thus far the history of the nation and of the states contains nothing to support the view. Missourians may safely assume that they are under no exceptional limitations in this respect and that no court can ever successfully dispute their right to say and publish what they please outside the few and clearly defined statutory limits of legal contempt. If the utterance is a libel there are legal remedies open to all citizens alike, subject to the common right of jury. Two kinds of constitutional rights are not existent in Missouri, one for the state supreme court, and one for the rest of the population. In its arraignment of two Republican editors of Missouri for alleged contempt of the state supreme court has imposed fines, with only a few words outlining the grounds on which the penalty was adjudged, one of the court announcing that "at a later time, so that all persons may have warning, an opinion will be prepared along these lines." It would have been fairer and far more satisfactory to the people to have the opinion at the same moment they hear of the punishment.

One of the editors fined says he merely copied the article the publication of which, the state supreme court holds, places the editor responsible for the publication in contempt of that court. The article charged the court with a corrupt decision of the suit of a citizen of Johnson county against a railway for personal injuries. After years of delay and numerous trials back and forth, the state supreme court decided in favor of the railway company. It is reported that almost the entire population of Johnson county were surprised at the decision and hold it to be unjust. A Warrensburg paper denounced it as corrupt, and its editor, cited to Jefferson City, has been fined \$500 for contempt. As the opinion of the court, beyond a few words, is withheld, full comment and analysis must necessarily be postponed. Criticism will be searching when the court ventures to present its full opinion for publication.

As far as this action of the state supreme court may be designed to intimidate the press of the state, or cover faults or usurpation of the court itself, the result will be contrary to that intended. Missourians, regardless of party, stand by free speech and will exercise it to the fullest extent, acknowledging, at the same time, their responsibility for libel, subject to the verdict of a jury. They make the constitution and they elect state supreme judges to act under it. They will say precisely what they choose of the completed decisions of that court and of the personal conduct of its members. They have, disastrously as we believe, fixed the term of supreme judges at ten years. The object was to remove the court from political influences; the result seems to have been the reverse. There is not a member of the present court who would not be overwhelmingly and deservedly defeated if he ever presents himself at the polls again for the suffrages of his fellow-citizens.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

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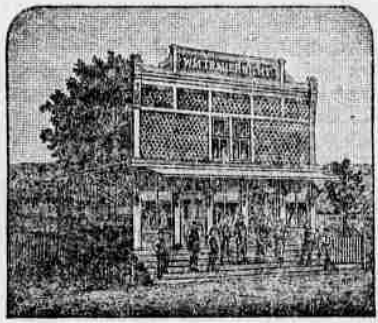
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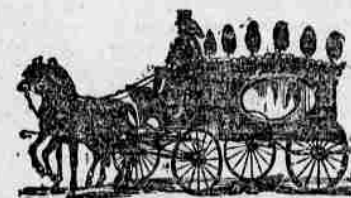
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## Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 25, '03. Still speaking of the Missouri delegation in the Congress of the United States, it will not do to ignore the Hon. Macenas E. Benton, of Neosho, "the little giant of the southwest." Mr. Benton belongs to the family of Bentons of Missouri, of which Thomas H. Benton was the most distinguished. If he were alive to-day he would be proud of the modest little gentleman who bears his name with honor and dignity in the national House of Representatives. Mr. Benton is a very poor windjammer or hot-air merchant. He seldom gets to his feet, but when he does there is some Republican who wishes he had kept his seat. He comes about as high knowing what he is talking about as any man in the Congress, and is one of the ablest orators of that body. He has had very little opportunity to indulge in pyrotechnic oratory in the House, and indeed he does not care to do so. He knows, as does every one else familiar with the situation, that he is going against the coldest proposition in the world; that he cannot change a vote on the Republican side of the chamber and that the Democrats who would vote with him any way are either in the cloak rooms telling yarns or else writing letters and will not pay any attention to his remarks. If that is not enough to put a crimp in any man with oratory to unload, what would you call it? Mr. Benton did, however, submit a few remarks toward the close of the first session of the 57th Congress that both sides of the House listened to with close attention. He is a member of the Appropriation Committee and he submitted a report of the expenditures of the first session of the Republican Congress that made some Republican eyes become unnaturally visible. His summary or compilation of the extravagance of that first session proved that the Republicans not only were responsible for the first billion-dollar Congress, but then for the first billion-dollar session of a Congress, as the appropriations aggregated over a billion dollars. Mr. Benton was complimented by having thousands of his reports printed and sent out by the Democratic Congressional Committee as one of its best documents.

Mr. Benton is the first man who ever was discharged from office for "pernicious activity" in politics. This occurred in 1886 when he was United States Attorney in Western Missouri under the first Cleveland administration. He was soon reinstated and served in that capacity until 1889. There never was a better Democrat on earth than this original "offensive partisan," and his constituents complimented their own intelligence by retaining him in Congress.

The Littauer glove contract is still agitating the War Department and official Washington. On account of the peculiar relationship existing between President Roosevelt and Congressman Littauer, the question is on the tip of every man's tongue. "What will Roosevelt do about this latest scandal that gets close to him?" At a Harvard College dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York on the 23d of February, 1900, Roosevelt declared with pride and emotion that his closest personal friend and political adviser was Mr. Lucius N. Littauer, member of Congress from New York. To quote his exact language: "I want to tell you that it is a Congressman who is my most intimate personal friend, and who is my closest political adviser."

"Who is he?" came from all sides.

"Lucius Littauer," said Roosevelt.

The laws of the United States forbid a member of Congress to take any government contract. The New York Sun, a Republican newspaper, friendly to Mr. Roosevelt, of course, reveals the fact that Mr. Littauer, during the Spanish-American war, manufactured some five hundred thousand dollars' worth of gloves and other supplies bought by the United States Government. A man named Lyon got

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the contract from the Government, and Littauer made the gloves for Lyon. In a letter to Lyon, Littauer, asks whether he (Littauer) shall go and see the responsible War Department official, General Luddington, "in regard to other glove contracts." And Littauer's brother acted as bondsman for Lyon in the procuring of contracts.

What will Mr. Roosevelt do under the circumstances? Will he instruct the Attorney General to investigate the matter? He cannot doubt that his endorsement of Mr. Littauer would have great weight with the War Department. Mr. Littauer may not have known, in spite of his offer to see a certain official, that Lyon really got the contracts on the strength of representing Mr. Roosevelt's intimate friend.

But what will Mr. Roosevelt do? He has not hesitated to give us his views of official purity. He has said, "Words are good when backed up by deeds, and only so." Will his words be backed by deeds in this case? Or is there a difference between an ordinary individual and the Harvard graduate who happens to be the President's "closest political friend and adviser."

The people would perhaps like to ask Mr. Roosevelt this question: What can be expected of the Postoffice people if the intimate political friend and most trusted adviser of the President makes a profit of some ninety thousand dollars on Government contracts, when the law says that no member of Congress shall profit by such a contract, directly or indirectly?

Mr. Roosevelt has said that he proposes to have everything about him "as clean as a hound's tooth." Isn't it about time for him to buy a carload of tooth brushes?

There is another phase of this glove contract matter that has never been exploited in the press of the country. The people know nothing about it and it contains a whole lot of meat for meditation upon the ways that are dark and the tricks that are vain, as practiced by the astute and unscrupulous Secretary of War, Mr. Root.

He is at present making a lot of fuss about investigating this glove contract, but he is doing the cuttlefish act. He is spewing out a lot of stuff that darkens the waters, and no one can see his work. Instead of placing the investigation of this glove contract in the hands of the regular army inspector in charge, and who is thoroughly familiar with it in every detail, he sends for a new man, a Mr. Gar-

lington, who knows nothing about the true inwardness of it, and gives him his instructions as to how he is to carry on the investigation and what he is to investigate. He circumscribes and limits his discretion in the matter. He tells him to investigate everything except one, and that one contains the milk in the cocoon. That is the manner in which the contract is drawn. It is drawn in such a manner as to call for a certain and specific kind of glove, and that kind of glove is made only by the Littauer Brothers, glove manufacturers of New York. Thus, no matter who got the contract from the War Department he would have to go to the Littauer Brothers to have the gloves made and they would reap the profits. Will President Roosevelt please have that phase of the contract investigated? If he does, his "close political friend and adviser" is in danger of wearing stripes. It is up to the President. Let's give him a chance.

Since the "Iowa idea" has been knocked over the ropes by the Republican party and the American Protective Tariff League has won a signal victory for the "standpaters" there has arisen a demand for a sort of tariff revision that stands a good chance to receive respectful attention at the December session of Congress. It is something radically different from the "Iowa idea." It emanates from the sugar trust, and is based upon assertions that German "cartel" producers intend to ship enormous quantities of cheap sugar to the United States as soon as the abolition of sugar bounties, recently arranged for at Brussels, goes into effect on September 1st. The magnates of the American Sugar Trust pretend that this constitutes a grave danger, and that it is the duty of Congress to pass legislation providing for an extension of the system of countervailing duties. They devoutly believe in the necessity and benefits of countervailing duties, ever since the United States Supreme Court upheld the right of the Government to levy such duties on Russian sugar. The Sugar Trust has presented its demand at the proper psychological moment; that is, just when the Republican party is "in the market" for "dignified" campaign contributions. It is a poor Trust that does not know its political opportunity. Considering the fact that the "Iowa idea" is as exceeding unpopular, and protection along orthodox lines still the supreme fetish in high Republican circles, it is not at all improbable that the sugar monopoly's

request that something be done in a legislative way to protect it against European competition will readily be complied with. As one of our most promising "infant industries," the Sugar Trust must be given all the protection that it needs, or thinks it needs. Its capitalization is diluted with such a big amount of water that a continuance of fat dividends on preferred and common shares would be made impossible by unrestrained competition. The Trust's grip upon the domestic sugar market must not be loosened. Consumers are prosperous and do not mind a little more "bleeding." And the Trust needs the money, and the Republican party needs it still more. The Havemeyer idea of tariff revision should be and probably will be given a rousing reception by the Republican majority in Congress. It is up-to-date and practicable. The men who conceived it are neither "cranks" nor "doctrinaires." They are just common, every-day thieves and that class is just now in fine fettle and stand high in Republican circles. Tell with the people.

CHARLES A. EDWARDS.

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## The Passing of a Righteous Man.

Pope Leo XIII. is dead and the civilized world mourns his passing. Sorrow is not confined to Catholicism, but extends even beyond the bounds of Protestantism. The death of a righteous man is a universal loss and no church nor creed can monopolize righteousness. There are many who deny the doctrine of the infallibility of the Pope, there are those who dispute the methods and tenets of Catholicism, but there is none who can deny the object—the worship of God—the object of all the churches of Christendom.

Pope Leo, the man, was hardly less remarkable than Pope Leo, the Christian. Reaching the extreme age of 93, he was to the time of his death active physically and mentally. He gave audiences to pilgrims, officiated at masses, and wrote with vigor up to the very day he was stricken. His life was pure and peaceful; his age the fulfillment of the promise: "Let thine heart keep My commandments: For length of days and long life, and peace shall they add to thee."

It is on such occasions that man is brought nearer to the light and can perceive with clearer vision that righteousness is the only church; that denominations are but petty, finite barriers to a universal brotherhood in the Creator. And it is evidenced in the universal sorrow for a righteous man.—St. Louis Chronicle.

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